FIRST COMICS
LIMITED SERIES
NO. 5 of 5

MICHAEL MOORCOCK'S

JUNE $1.75
NO. 5
$2.45 CANADA

# Elric

## Weird of the White Wolf

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ROY THOMAS · MICHAEL T. GILBERT
P. CRAIG RUSSELL · GEORGE FREEMAN

# Melnibonean Mailbox!

435 N. LASALLE, CHICAGO, IL 60610

**Quick Rundown Dept.**

For those of you who are just joining us, as a public service here's a re-cap of the last issue:

**Elric** was approached by **Yishanna**, Queen of Jharkor, for aid with a mystic castle that had bewitched and kidnapped many of her subjects. Accompanying them was **Theleb K'Aarna** of Pan Tang, a sorceror of great power, who is obsessed with the Queen.

Yishanna is entranced by the castle, and Elric enters hoping to find her. Inside, the castle appears to exist on many levels of space-time, and Elric uses his runesword, **Stormbringer**, to overcome its guardians. He finally confronts the master of the keep, **Balo**, Court Jester to the Chaos Lords. Balo intends to establish his own domain on earth (and have a good time doing it, too), by blending aspects of both Chaos and Law. He offers a share to Elric, who declines and to be rid of Balo, invokes his patron, **Arioch**, Duke of Chaos...

Dear Sirs,

Just thought I'd write and voice my opinion on Weird of the White Wolf #3. I have been a RABID Elric fan both in comic and book form for a few years now. While I find the writing and adaptation excellent and praise your efforts to bring some class to the comic scene, I find the Gilbert/Freeman art totally underwhelming to the point of being lame. This worries me because, in your case, it is the difference between being a top notch book and poor-mediocre book. I have tried to be fair and not too hasty in my criticisms and figured that art would improve with time; but after a decent start to Sailor on the Seas of Fate, the art has steadily declined to where it is totally awful.

The outstanding art of Craig Russell (pgs 2-16) only shows how bad pgs. 17-28 truly are. You have to look no further than the beautiful colors of the cover and the especially intense pgs.13-14, to realize that Mr. Russell brings a sensitivity and grace to the doomed and dreaded albino prince that few, if any can match. (Maybe, Michael Kaluta or Frank Brunner, who are also outstanding artists.)

In all fairness, I realize Mssrs. Gilbert and Freeman work extremely hard and that their works apart (Mr. Monster, Jack of Hearts) were very good, but together they don't quite cut it. Just look at Myshella's chin or Eloarde's busted nose. And to see Elric drawn as an ELF, the whole thing so poorly inked and flatly colored, totally destroys the visual outstandingness of the character and the book. Elric is, in my mind, a *classic* hero/anti-hero in the truest sense of the word. He deserves (I'm sure Mr. Moorcock would agree) an artist capable of delivering him with full visual impact...

Craig Russell is that artist.

Stuart Douglas henderson
Urban Cancer Alley
New Brunswick, NJ

*Sorry to hear that you don't particularly care for the **Michael T. Gilbert/George Freeman** art in **Elric**. They do have a lot of fans (as past letters to this column can attest). And **P. Craig Russell** is just too busy working on his graphic novels to take up art chores on our albino prince again. So, the news...*

*Beginning with the next issue, and incidently the next adaptation, **Jan Duursema** comes on as artist for **Elric: The Vanishing Tower**. Those of you who have seen her work in Arion, Lord of Atlantis and the recent DC graphic novel The Magic Goes Away, know that she already has a real good hold of the fantasy, sword-and-sorcery genre. Personally, I like her stuff a lot and will be interested in your (and the rest of our readers') reaction. Let me know.*

Dear Mr. Fitch,

I am so fascinated by Michael Moorcock's Elric that I have been buying anything to do with him. (I even obtained an Elric print of a Chris Achilloes painting, signed by him and Mr. Moorcock.)

Unfortunately, comic stores in Notting-ham are scarce, so I had to turn to the U.S.A. to get a copy of the Marvel "Elric and the Dreaming City."

Could you give me an idea where I could get the following also:
Star*Reach #6, Conan #14-15,

Star*Reach's Greatest Hits, Epic #14, Pacific's Elric of Melnibone #1, 4 and 6; Sailor on the Seas of Fate #1-2; and finally the Elric of Melnibone' hardbound signed graphic novel.

Is it possible to buy copies of the Elric series (published by you) signed by the artist, or signed original page drawings?

And about Weird of the White Wolf... I've collected nearly all the First Elric series, and each is an improvement on its predecessor. I'm on #3, and think using George Freeman for Aubec and P. Craig Russell for Elric adds to the effect of the two characters existing in different eras. Only one thing is puzzling me, and I bet your readers too, is that Mr. Freeman has drawn Elric on pgs 17-28. Why? Has Mr. Freeman broken Mr. Russell's hand in a fight to draw Elric? I like both versions, but Russell's has the edge.

Andrew Briggs
69 Leyton Crescent
Beeston Rylands, Nottingham
England NG9 1PR

*About your list. Many people in this country make their living by selling back issues. You can find their addresses in publications like The Comics Buyer's Guide. Write — I'm sure they'll be glad to help you. The signed hardbound edition of the **Elric of Melnibone** graphic novel can be ordered by writing to Bob Chapman, Graphitti Designs, 515 W. Valencia, Unit E, Fullerton CA 92632. Sorry, it's just not possible for artists to sign copies of all their books, and we do get a lot of requests for this.*

*And no, **George Freeman** did not break **P. Craig Russell's** hand; the pages you refer to are part of a "flashback" drawn by Craig for this series.*

*And by the way, I'm a Ms. not a Mr. Just thought you'd like to know.*

**NEXT ISSUE: Jan Duursema** joins **Roy Thomas** as Elric pursues a trail of vengeance in the first issue of **Elric: The Vanishing Tower.** See you then.

—Laurel Fitch

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**A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION**

MICHAEL MOORCOCK's
Weird of the White Wolf
ARIOCH!
FLICK!
THESE IMAGES ARE TOO REAL, MYSHELLA..
ROY THOMAS
SCRIPT / CO-ADAPTATION
MICHAEL T. GILBERT
LAYOUT / CO-ADAPTATION
GEORGE FREEMAN
FINISHED ART / COLORS
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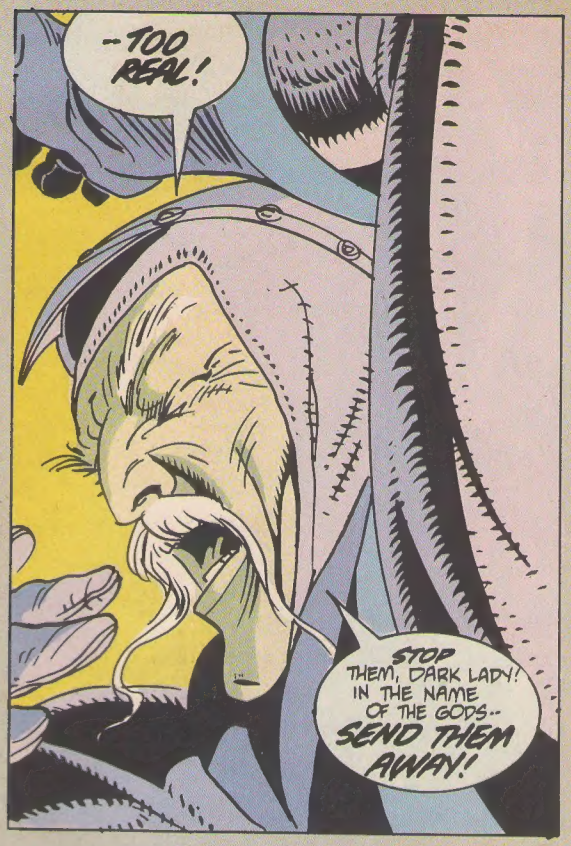
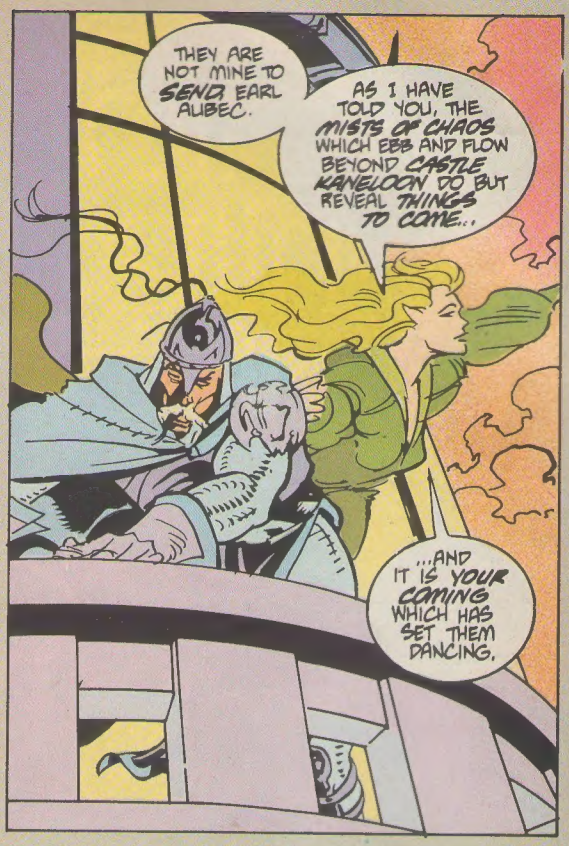
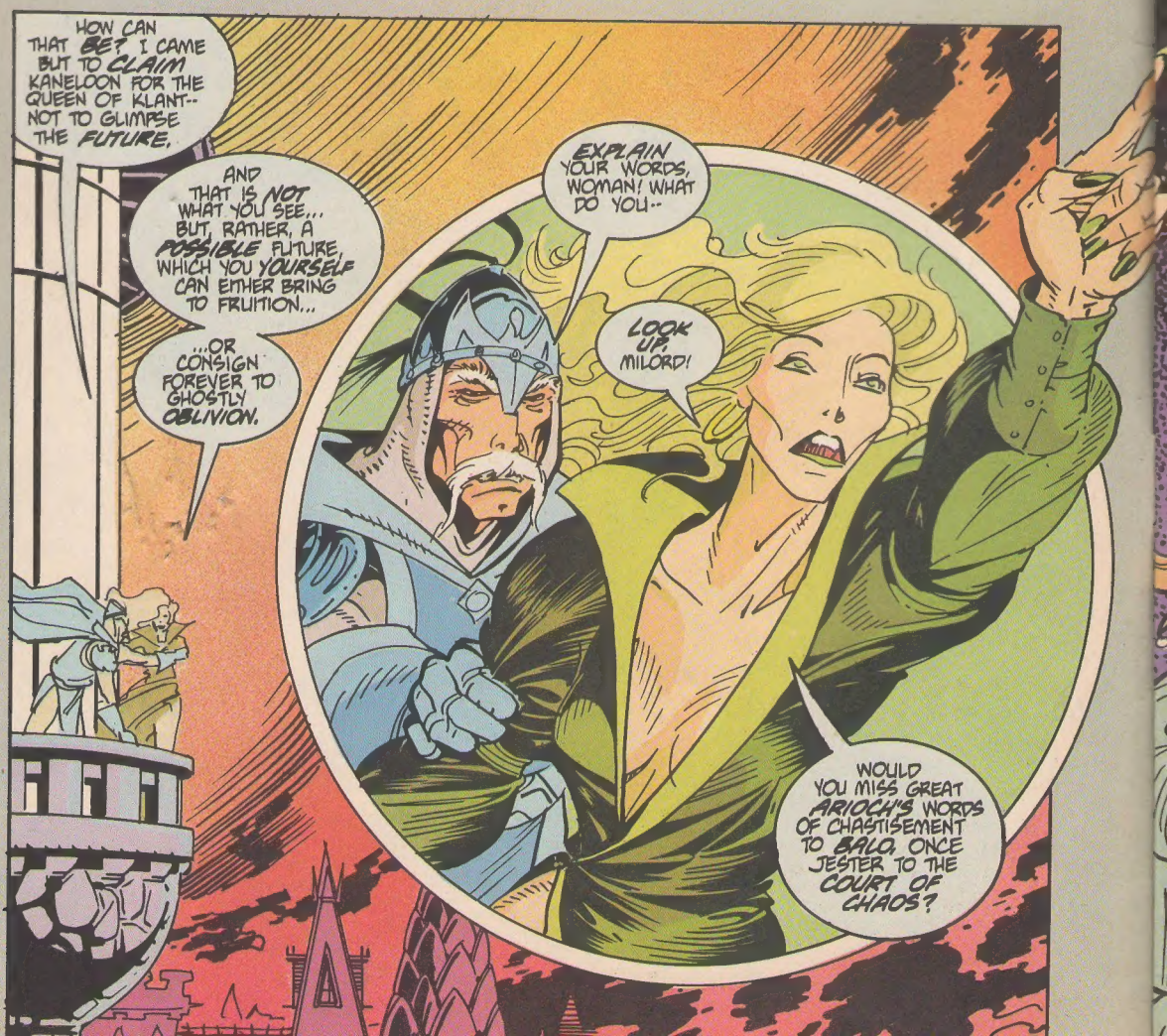
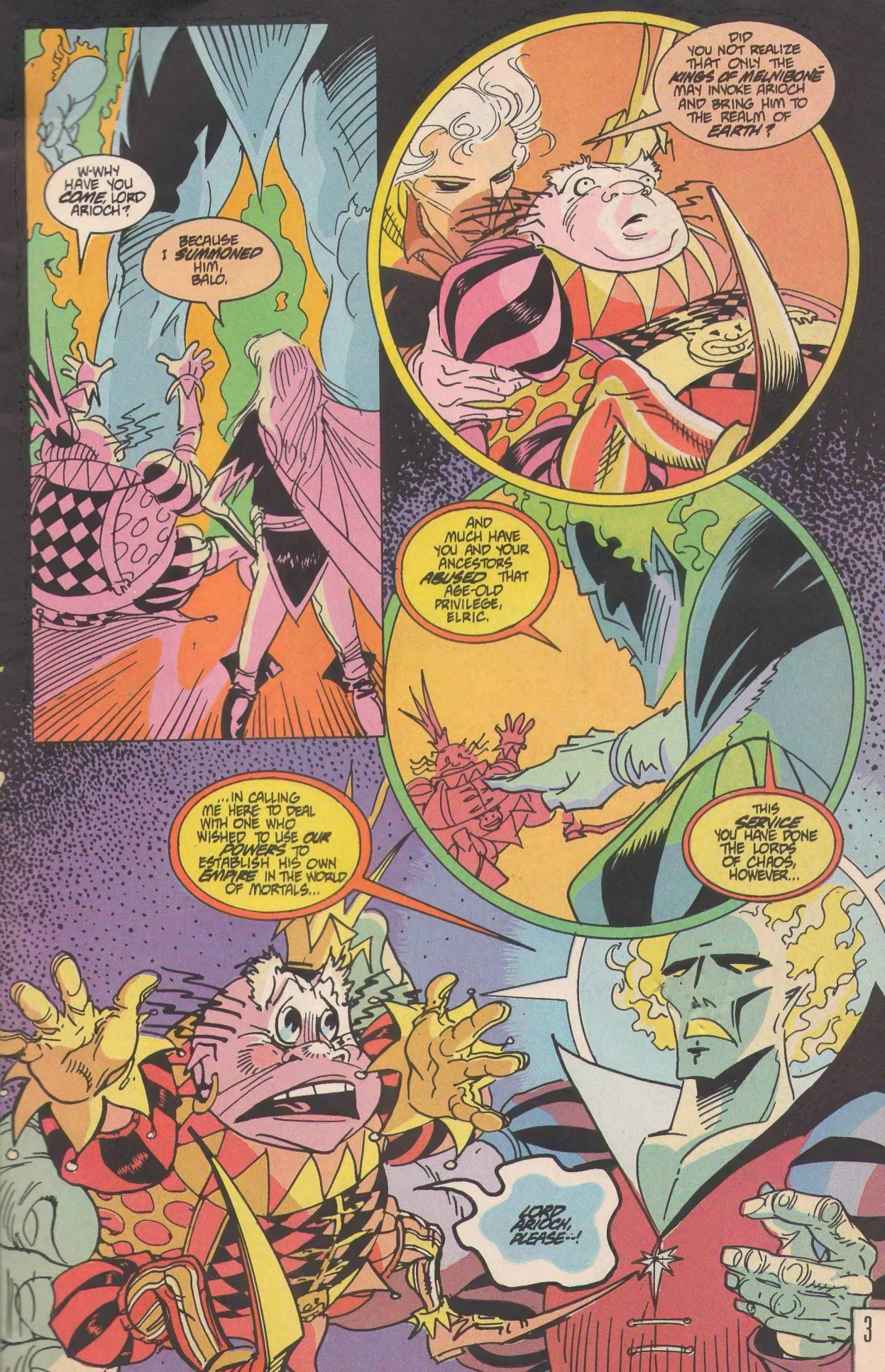
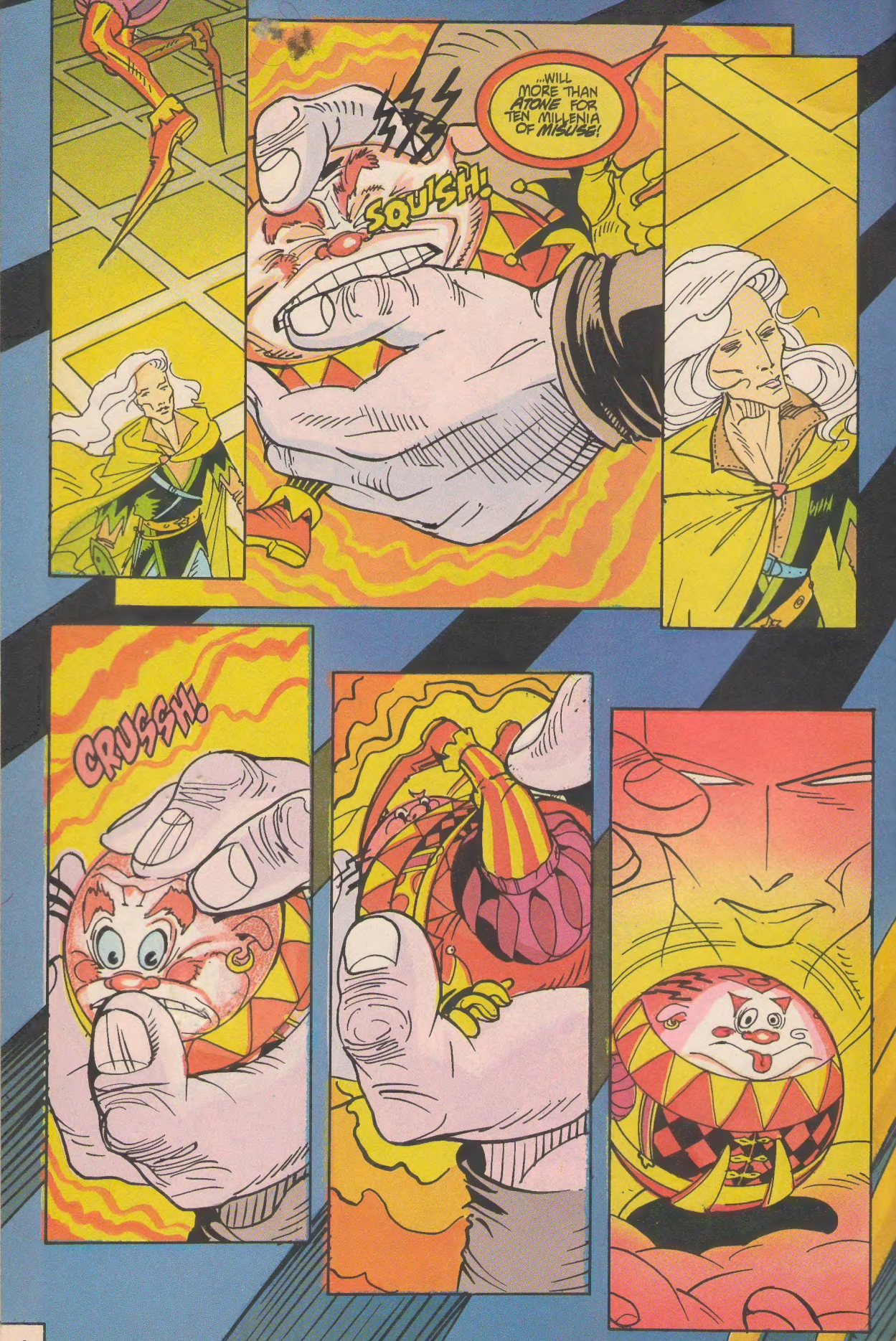
CO EDITORS
1


--TOO REAL!
STOP THEM, DARK LADY! IN THE NAME OF THE GODS-- SEND THEM AWAY!


THEY ARE NOT MINE TO SEND, EARL AUBEC.
AS I HAVE TOLD YOU, THE MISTS OF CHAOS WHICH EBB AND FLOW BEYOND CASTLE KANELOON DO BUT REVEAL THINGS TO COME...
...AND IT IS YOUR COMING WHICH HAS SET THEM DANCING.


HOW CAN THAT BE? I CAME BUT TO CLAIM KANELOON FOR THE QUEEN OF KLANT-- NOT TO GLIMPSE THE FUTURE.
AND THAT IS NOT WHAT YOU SEE... BUT, RATHER, A POSSIBLE FUTURE, WHICH YOU YOURSELF CAN EITHER BRING TO FRUITION...
...OR CONSIGN FOREVER TO GHOSTLY OBLIVION.
EXPLAIN YOUR WORDS, WOMAN! WHAT DO YOU--
LOOK UP, MILORD!
WOULD YOU MISS GREAT ARIOCH'S WORDS OF CHASTISEMENT TO BALO, ONCE JESTER TO THE COURT OF CHAOS?


W-WHY HAVE YOU COME, LORD ARIOCH?
BECAUSE I SUMMONED HIM, BALO.
DID YOU NOT REALIZE THAT ONLY THE KINGS OF MELNIBONÉ MAY INVOKE ARIOCH AND BRING HIM TO THE REALM OF EARTH?
AND MUCH HAVE YOU AND YOUR ANCESTORS ABUSED THAT AGE-OLD PRIVILEGE, ELRIC.
...IN CALLING ME HERE TO DEAL WITH ONE WHO WISHED TO USE OUR POWERS TO ESTABLISH HIS OWN EMPIRE IN THE WORLD OF MORTALS...
THIS SERVICE YOU HAVE DONE THE LORDS OF CHAOS, HOWEVER...
LORD ARIOCH, PLEASE--!


...WILL MORE THAN ATONE FOR TEN MILLENIA OF MISUSE!
SQUISH!
CRUSSH!

CHOMP!
ARIOCH--!
I HAVE NOT EATEN HIM, ELRIC.
IT IS MERELY THE SIMPLEST WAY OF TRANSPORTING HIM BACK TO THE REALM FROM WHICH HE CAME.
BALO HAS TRANSGRESSED, AND WILL BE PUNISHED.
AS FOR THIS CITADEL HE CREATED--IT IS UNFORTUNATE, AND CONTRADICTS THE PLANS WE CHAOS LORDS HAVE FOR EARTH-
-PLANS WHICH WILL INVOLVE YOU, OUR SERVANT--AND WHICH WILL MAKE YOU MIGHTY INDEED.

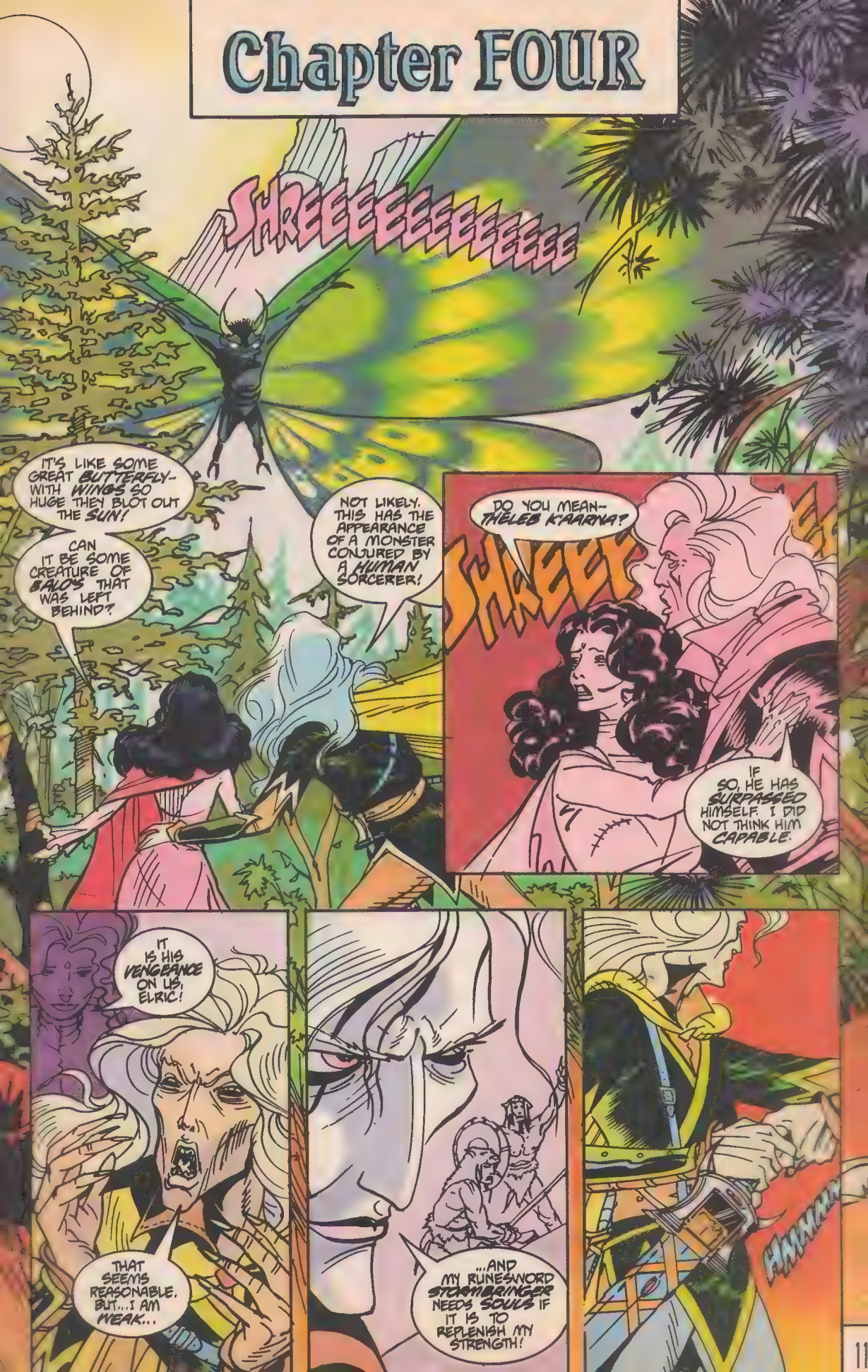
I AM HONORED, LORD ARIOCH... THOUGH I SEEK NO FAVORS.
YOU ARE PLEDGED TO SERVE CHAOS, ELRIC, AS WERE YOUR ANCESTORS... AND SERVE IT YOU SHALL!
THE TIME DRAWS NEAR WHEN LAW AND CHAOS WILL BATTLE FOR EARTH'S REALM--AND CHAOS WILL WIN!
AH, ELRIC, HAVE THE MEN OF MELNIBONE BECOM... THE HALF-APES W... NOW DOMINATE EAR... WITH THEIR PUNY "CIVILIZATIONS"
EARTH WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO OUR REALM, AND YOU WILL JOIN THE HIERARCHY OF CHAOS--
--BECOME AS IMMORTAL AS WE OURSELVES ARE!
IMMORTALITY OFFERS LITTLE TO ME, MY LORD.

AH, ELRIC, HAVE THE MEN OF MELNIBONÉ BECOME AS THE HALF-APES WHO NOW DOMINATE EARTH WITH THEIR PUNY "CIVILIZATIONS"?
ARE YOU NO BETTER THAN THESE YOUNG KINGDOM UPSTARTS?
THINK, MAN, WHAT WE OFFER!
I SHALL, MY LORD... WHEN THE TIME YOU MENTION COMES.
YOU SHALL, INDEED.
AND NOW, THE MOMENT IS COME TO REMOVE THIS TOY OF BALO'S TO ITS PROPER REALM, AND REDRESS THE TROUBLE HE HAS CAUSED...
...LEST SOME HINT REACH OUR OPPONENTS BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME!
ARIOCH'S VOICE SWELLS~

--LIKE THE SINGING OF A MILLION BRAZEN BELLS!
ELRIC FEELS HIS OWN BODY SEEM TO SHRED APART--
--TO GROW AND STRETCH--
--UNTIL IT BECOMES LIKE SMOKE DRIFTING ON AIR--
--AND ALL AROUND HIM ARE ROLLING BANKS OF COLOR--
--FLASHES, AND INDESCRIBABLE SOUNDS.
THEN COMES A VAST BLACKNESS, AND HE CLOSES HIS EYES.

..WHEN HE OPENS THEM, HE STANDS AGAIN IN THE VALLEY OF THOKORA, IN THE LAND CALLED THARKOR... WITH NO SINGING CITADEL in SIGHT, BUT ONLY QUEEN YISHANA AND A FEW VERY STARTLED SOLDIERS.
ELRIC-!?
THEN IT WAS YOU WHO SAVED US!
I CAN CLAIM ONLY A PART OF THE CREDIT, YISHANA.
BUT--NOT ALL MY SOLDIERS ARE HERE.
WHERE ARE THE REST-- AND THE VILLAGERS ABDUCTED EARLIER?
IF BALO'S TASTES ARE LIKE HIS MASTERS', I FEAR THEY NOW HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING PART OF A DEMI-GOD.
DO YOU MEAN--?

THE LORDS OF CHAOS ARE NOT FLESH-EATERS, OF COURSE.
STILL, THERE IS SOMETHING THEY SAVOR IN MEN... SOMETHING WHICH SATISFIES THEIR COSMIC PALATES.
BUT BALO WAS HUGE! I CANNOT BELIEVE HIS CITADEL COULD CONTAIN HIS BULK!
SOMEHOW, IT CHANGED SIZE, SHAPE-AND OTHER DIMENSIONS I CANNOT DESCRIBE.
ARIOCH OF CHAOS TRANSPORTED IT AND BALO BACK TO WHERE THEY BELONG.
ARIOCH?!
BUT HE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SIX!
HOW CAME ARIOCH TO EARTH?
AN OLD PACT WITH MY REMOTE ANCESTORS.
BY CALLING HIM, THEY ALLOW HIM TO SPEND A SHORT TIME IN OUR REALM, AND ARIOCH REPAYS THEM WITH SOME FAVOR.
THIS... WAS DONE.
COME, ELRIC. LETS AWAY FROM THIS VALLEY BEFORE HE DECIDES TO...
FLAP! FLAP!
FLAP! FLAP!
WHAT IS THAT??


Chapter FOUR
SHREEEEEEEEEEEEEE
IT'S LIKE SOME GREAT BUTTERFLY- WITH WINGS SO HUGE THEY BLOT OUT THE SUN!
CAN IT BE SOME CREATURE OF BALO'S THAT WAS LEFT BEHIND?
NOT LIKELY. THIS HAS THE APPEARANCE OF A MONSTER CONJURED BY A HUMAN SORCERER!
DO YOU MEAN- THELEB K'AARNA?
SHREE!
IF SO, HE HAS SURPASSED HIMSELF. I DID NOT THINK HIM CAPABLE.
IT IS HIS VENGEANCE ON US, ELRIC!
THAT SEEMS REASONABLE. BUT...I AM WEAK...
...AND MY RUNESWORD STORMBRINGER NEEDS SOULS IF IT IS TO REPLENISH MY STRENGTH!
HAHAHA

EVEN MY WARRIORS FLEE IN HORROR!
WE ARE DOOMED, ELRIC!
BEST GO WITH YOUR MEN, YISHANA.
I SUSPECT THE CREATURE WILL BE SATISFIED WITH ME ALONE.
NO! I WILL NOT DESERT YOU!
THEN DO THE THING WHICH IS NEXT BEST--
--AND GET OUT OF THE WAY!

FROM THE LOOK OF YOU, MONSTER, YOU WERE ONCE HUMAN--AND DOUBTLESS WARPED BY THELEB K'AARNA'S SORCERY.
SHREEEEEEEEEEE
YOU ARE MORTAL, THEN--
--AND YOU CAN DIE!
ELRIC--WATCH OUT! HE'S--
ARRRRRR
NNOOOOOOOOO

SHREEEEEEKKK
MOONGLUM...
H-HE WON'T... SURVIVE LONG.. UNLESS...
YISHANA...!

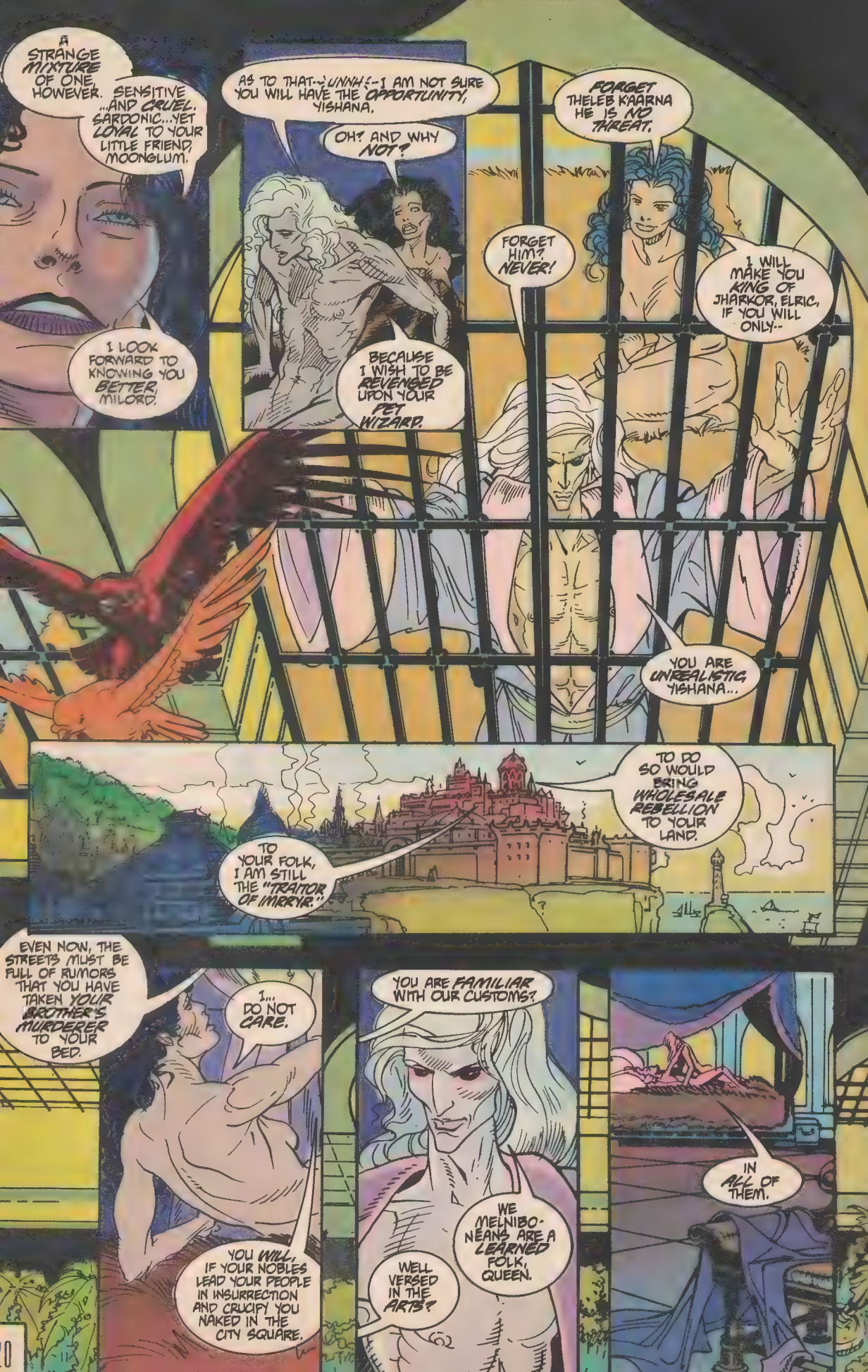
WE MUST GO, ELRIC-- HIDE FROM THAT THING--!
NO. I... MUST AID MOON GLUM! YOU CAN HELP ME..
THEN I SHALL. BUT HOW?
THERE ARE LIZARDS IN THESE PARTS.. ARE THERE NOT?
AYE, MANY KINDS. BUT..
THEN THIS IS THE RUNE... YOU MUST RECITE WITH ME...
AND REMEMBER... IF WE DO NOT SUCCEED...
WE SHALL ALL PERISH HERE THIS DAY...!
IN THE HALF WORLDS, WHERE DWELL THE ARCHETYPES OF ALL CREATURES OTHER THAN MAN...
...AN ENTITY STIRS, HEARING ITS SIBILANT NAME CALLED FROM AFAR.
HAAASHAASTAAK, LORD OF LIZARDS --YOUR CHILDREN WERE FATHERS OF MEN!
HAAASHAASTAAK, PRINCE OF REPTILES- COME AID A GRANDCHILD NOW!

THOUGH REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THE RHYTHMS SEEM TOO FAINT, TOO FAR-OFF TO BE WORTHY OF ATTENTION.
HAASHAA-STAAK, FATHER OF SCALES--
IT QUIVERS, BECOMING MORE CURIOUS.
--COLD-BLOODED BRINGER OF LIFE--!
THE ENTITY STIRS ITSELF, YAWNS... AND DOES NOTHING.
IT SENSES DIMLY THAT, IF IT ANSWERS THE RHYTHMS, IT WILL HAVE TO OBEY THEIR SOURCE.
AND STILL, THE ENTITY BETAKES HIMSELF, A BIT SLOTHFULLY--
--TO EARTH!
ELRIC-- WHAT NEW MONSTER IS THIS??
DO NOT MOVE, YISHANA.
THAT--IS HAASHAASTAAK!

HAAAGHAASTAAK! MOKIK ANKKUH!
SHREEEE
HSSSSSSS
EEEEE
CHOMP!

BURRP!
PIUU!
ELRIC- WHERE IS THAT THING VANISHING TO?
HOME, MOONGLUM. ITS WORK IS DONE.
OUR THANKS FOR YOUR TIMELY ATTACK, OLD FRIEND.
I FOLLOWED AT A DISTANCE, AS YOU REQUESTED, SINCE YOU SUSPECTED TREACHERY FROM THELEB K'AARNA...
LATER...
WHAT? A BED? MOONGLUM? YISHANA?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?
MORE THAN TWO DAYS. YOU ARE IN MY PALACE.
NOW, LIE STILL. YOUR ARM...
A POUCH OF HERBS FROM MY BELONGINGS AT THE INN WILL HEAL IT QUICKLY...
...AND ALSO GIVE ME A BIT OF STRENGTH...

"...AND WHE I SPIED THE S CORCERER COMING THIS WAY, I FOLLOWED -M TO A CAVE YONDER H S."
WHEN THE BUTTERFLY CREATURE EMERGED FROM THE CAVE... I DECIDED... IT WAS WISEST ...TO CHASE...
...YAWWWNN
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM, ELRIC?
MERELY HIS FATIGUE OVERTAKING HIM.
AND, SINCE I DOUBT WE NEED FEAR ANYTHING MORE FROM YOUR SORCERER JUST YET...
...I SUGGEST...WE JOIN HIM...
A POUCH OF HERBS FROM MY BELONGINGS AT THE INN WILL HEAL IT QUICKLY...
...AND ALSO GIVE ME A BIT OF STRENGTH...
I WILL GO SEE IF THEY ARE STILL THERE.
AND I... HAVE MUCH TO THANK YOU FOR, "WHITE WOLF."
YOU SAVED MY KINGDOM... PERHAPS ALL THE YOUNG KINGDOMS.
IN MY EYES YOU ARE REDEEMED FOR MY BROTHER'S DEATH.
OH, I THANK YOU, MADAME... MOST HUMBLY.
HAHAHAHA YOU ARE STILL A MELNIBONEAN, I SEE.

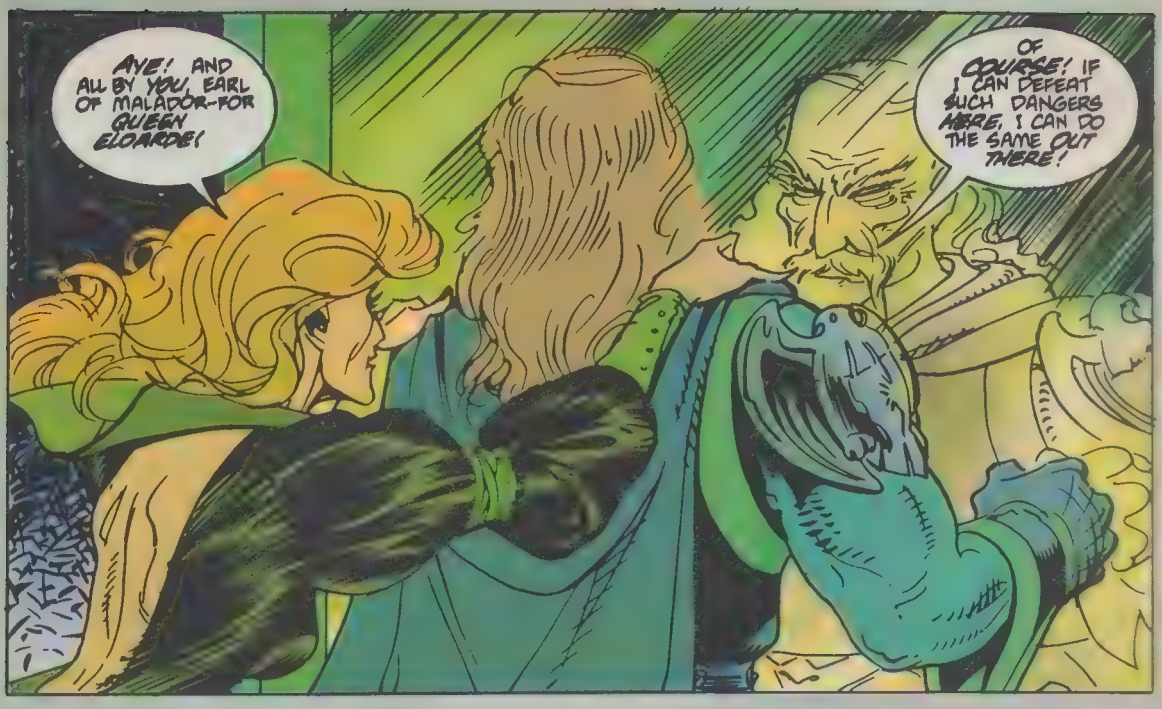

A STRANGE MIXTURE OF ONE, HOWEVER.
...SENSITIVE ...AND CRUEL, SARDONIC...YET LOYAL TO YOUR LITTLE FRIEND, MOONGLUM.
I LOOK FORWARD TO KNOWING YOU BETTER, MILORD.
AS TO THAT--UNNH!--I AM NOT SURE YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, YISHANA.
OH? AND WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I WISH TO BE REVENGED UPON YOUR PET WIZARD.
FORGET THELEB K'AARNA HE IS NO THREAT.
FORGET HIM? NEVER!
I WILL MAKE YOU KING OF JHARKOR, ELRIC, IF YOU WILL ONLY--
YOU ARE UNREALISTIC, YISHANA...
TO DO SO WOULD BRING WHOLESALE REBELLION TO YOUR LAND.
TO YOUR FOLK, I AM STILL THE "TRAITOR OF IMRYR."
EVEN NOW, THE STREETS MUST BE FULL OF RUMORS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN YOUR BROTHER'S MURDERER TO YOUR BED.
I... DO NOT CARE.
YOU WILL, IF YOUR NOBLES LEAD YOUR PEOPLE IN INSURRECTION AND CRUCIFY YOU NAKED IN THE CITY SQUARE.
YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH OUR CUSTOMS?
WELL VERSED IN THE ARTS?
WE MELNIBONEANS ARE A LEARNED FOLK, QUEEN.
IN ALL OF THEM.

MOONGLUM IS WAITING IN THE ANTECHAMBER WHEN ELRIC STEALS OUT LATER...
YOU HAVE THE POUCH?
AYE.
ELRIC'S MOOD IS NOT LIGHT. HE TAKES THE HERBS HE NEEDS, AND TOGETHER HE AND MOONGLUM SILENTLY TAKE THEIR LEAVE OF THE PALACE.
IF I KNOW THE SORCERERS OF PAN TANG, THEN THELEB K'AARNA WILL BE MORE EXHAUSTED THAN WAS I.
WITH LUCK, WE WILL COME UPON HIM SLEEPING.
I HAVE SEEN YOUR VENGEANCE-TAKING, MY FRIEND.
I SHALL WAIT OUTSIDE THE CAVE.
WHEN THEY REACH THE HILLS, THE ALBINO GOES SOFT-FOOTED INTO THE CAVE...
...HIS RUNESWORD AT THE READY.
MOONGLUM WAITS PATIENTLY FOR THELEB K'AARNA'S FIRST SHRIEK.
NONE COMES.
THEN, AT DAWN'S FAINT LIGHT...
HUH?! OH-UH-- ELRIC! WELL, ARE YOU SATISFIED?

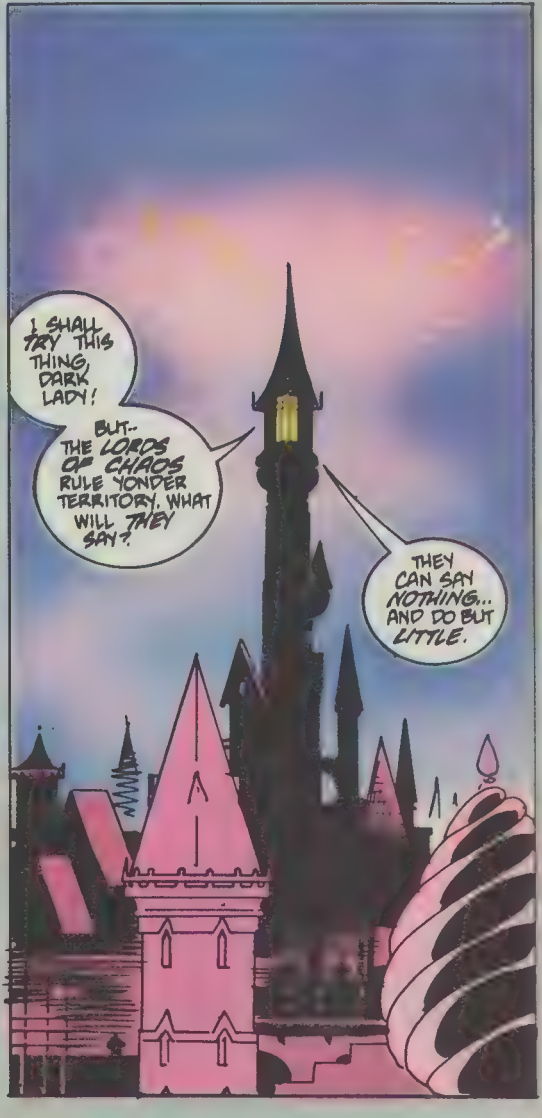
I AM NOT.
THE DOG HAS VANISHED!
IN THE FARTHEST CAVERN, I FOUND SORCEROUS RUNES.
HE HAS TRANSPORTED HIMSELF SOMEWHERE--PERHAPS BACK TO HIS HOMELAND.
THEN OUR QUEST HAS BEEN FUTILE! WE RETURN NOW TO DHAKOS, EH?
NO! WE GO TO PAN TANG!
B-BUT HIS BROTHER SORCERERS DWELL THERE IN STRENGTH, AND..
NO MATTER. I WISH TO FINISH MY BUSINESS WITH THELEB K'AARNA.
YOU HAVE NO PROOF THAT HE IS EVEN THERE!
NO MATTER! RIDE!
ONLY ELRIC'S STRANGE, CRIMSON EYES REFLECT THE MISERY AND CONFLICT WITHIN HIM AT HIS LEAVE-TAKING OF JHARKOR'S QUEEN.
IN DHAKOS THAT MORNING, OTHER EYES THAN ELRIC'S HOLD MISERY.
BUT NOT FOR TOO LONG...

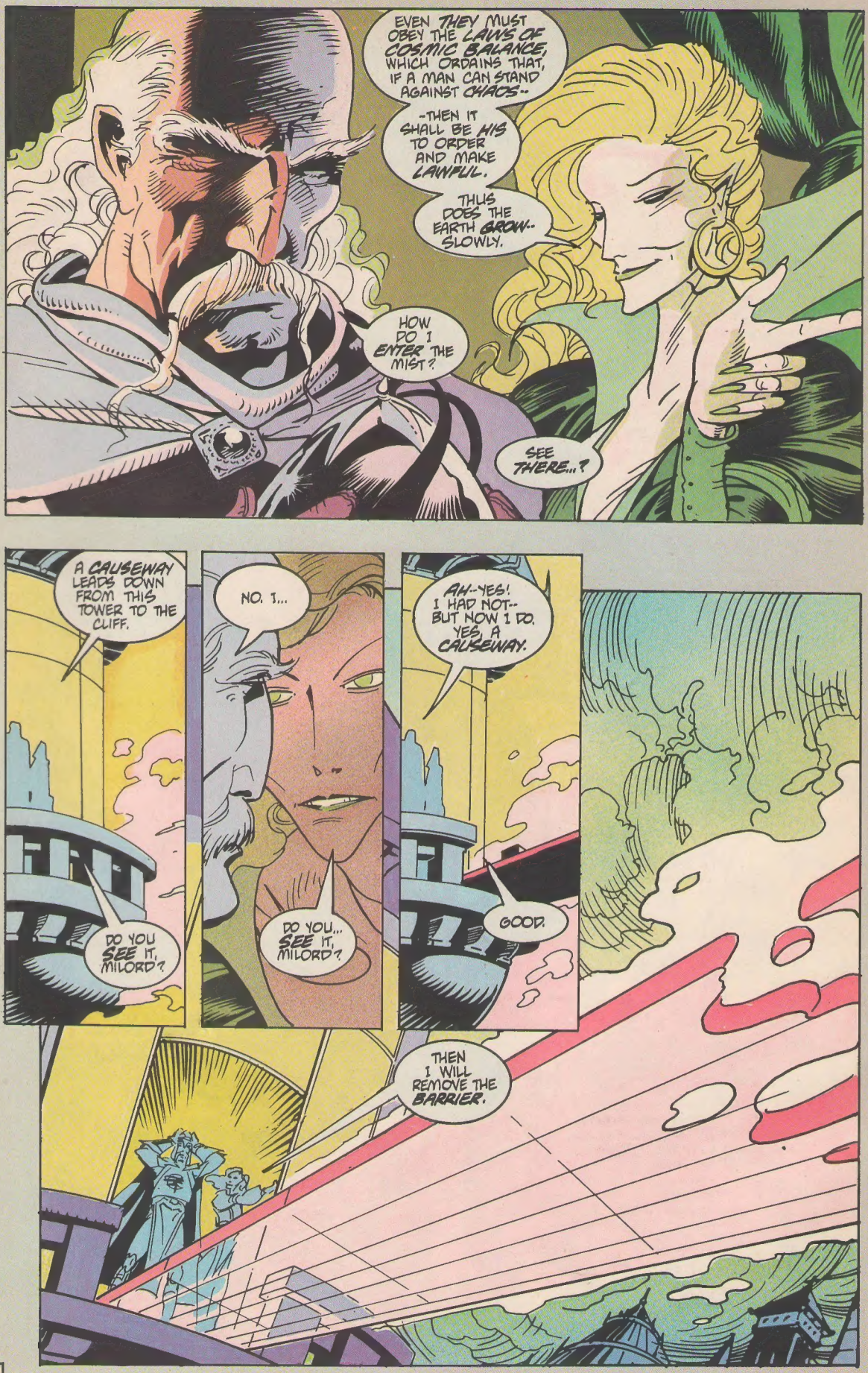
...FOR YASHINA IS A MOST ARROGANTIC QUEEN.
A WONDROUS TALE, DARK LADY, SPUN BY CLOUDS AND HONEYED WORDS.
'TIS A FUTURE I WOULD NOT ENVY! YET, I HAVE TARRIED HERE LONG ENOUGH, AND HAVE NO MORE TIME TO WASTE!
I HAVE CONQUERED CASTLE KANELOON FOR QUEEN ELOARDE OF KLANT. SHE NOW RULES ALL THE WORLD...
...AND I WILL RETURN AND LIVE IN PEACE WITH HER, AS HER FAITHFUL CONSORT!
YOU HAVE INDEED SERVED HER WELL.
YOUR QUEEN DOES INDEED RULE MANY A FINE KINGDOM AND FAIR...
BUT - "ALL THE WORLD"? FAR FROM IT, EARL AUBEC!

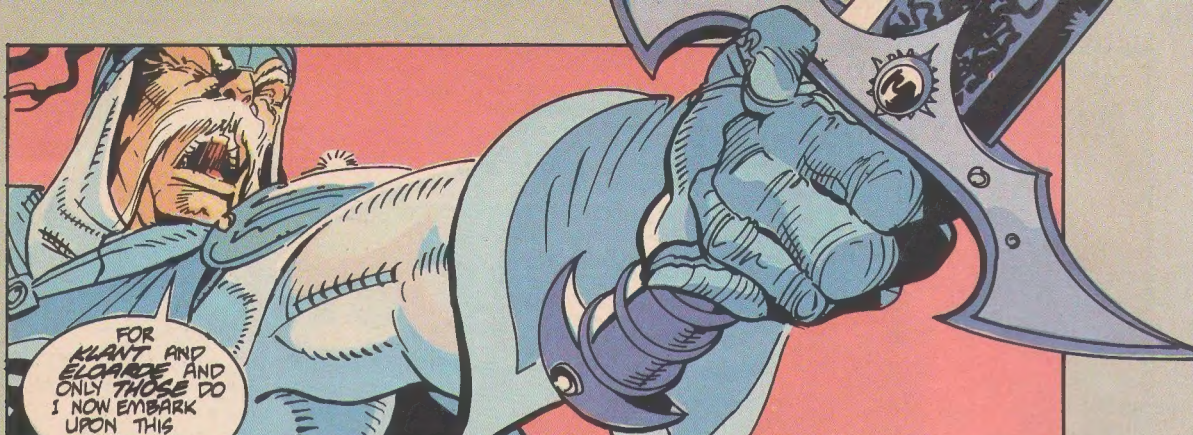
EH? WHAT MEAN YOU, WOMAN?
THINK, MILORD! BEYOND THIS CASTLE SWIRL THE MISTS OF CHAOS, BEYOND WHICH THERE IS ONLY NOTHING-NESS.
BUT A MIGHTY CONQUEROR MAY BRING NEW LANDS INTO EXISTENCE BY THE MERE ACT OF STANDING AGAINST CHAOS!
WHY NOT EXTEND THE EMPIRE'S BOUNDARIES FARTHER?
WHY NOT CREATE NEW TERRITORIES?
NEW... TERRITORIES...?
OF COURSE.
THINK OF THE HONORS YOU WOULD RECEIVE IN KLANT IF YOU SUCCEEDED IN WINNING NOT MERELY KANELOON--BUT THAT WHICH LIES BEYOND--
--THAT WHICH YOU YOURSELF WOULD HAVE CALLED INTO BEING!
NEW PLAINS... NEW MOUNTAINS... NEW SEAS...
...WHOLE CITIES, FULL OF PEOPLE FRESH-SPRUNG, YET WITH THE MEMORY OF GENERATIONS OF ANCESTORS BEHIND THEM!
CAN ALL THIS... TRULY BE DONE?

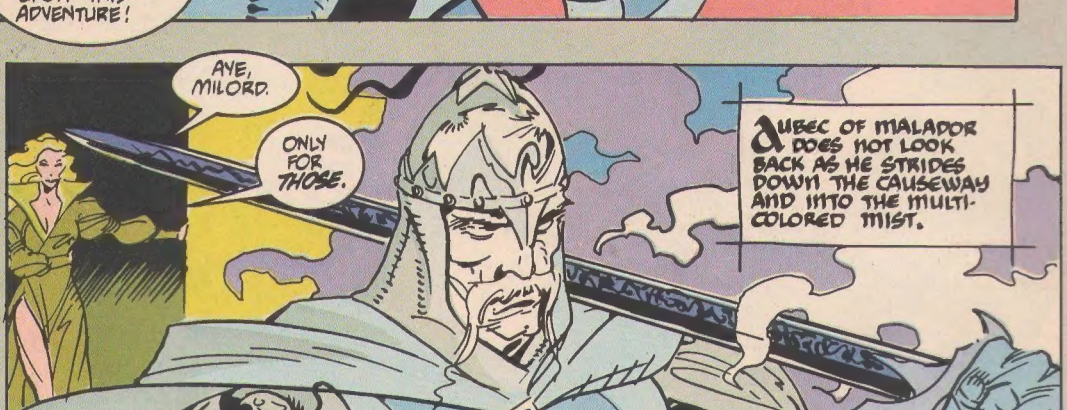

AYE! AND ALL BY YOU, EARL OF MALADOR-FOR QUEEN ELOARDE!
OF COURSE! IF I CAN DEFEAT SUCH DANGERS HERE, I CAN DO THE SAME OUT THERE!

IT WILL BE THE GREATEST ADVENTURE IN HISTORY!
MY VERY NAME WILL BECOME A LEGEND--
--EARL AUBEC OF MALADOR--MASTER OF CHAOS!

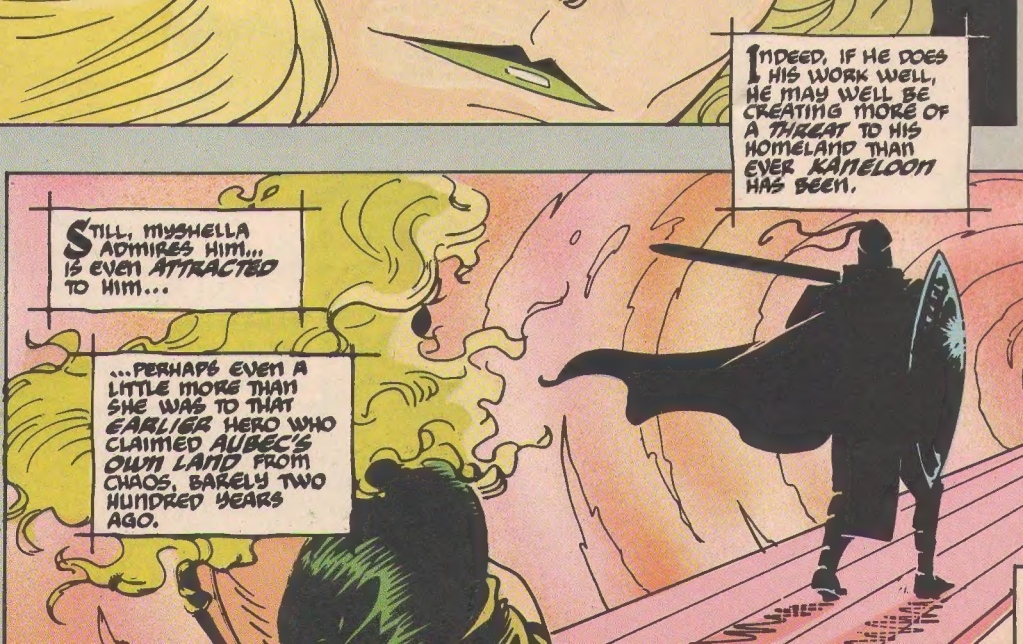

I SHALL TRY THIS THING, DARK LADY!
BUT-- THE LORDS OF CHAOS RULE YONDER TERRITORY. WHAT WILL THEY SAY?
THEY CAN SAY NOTHING... AND DO BUT LITTLE.

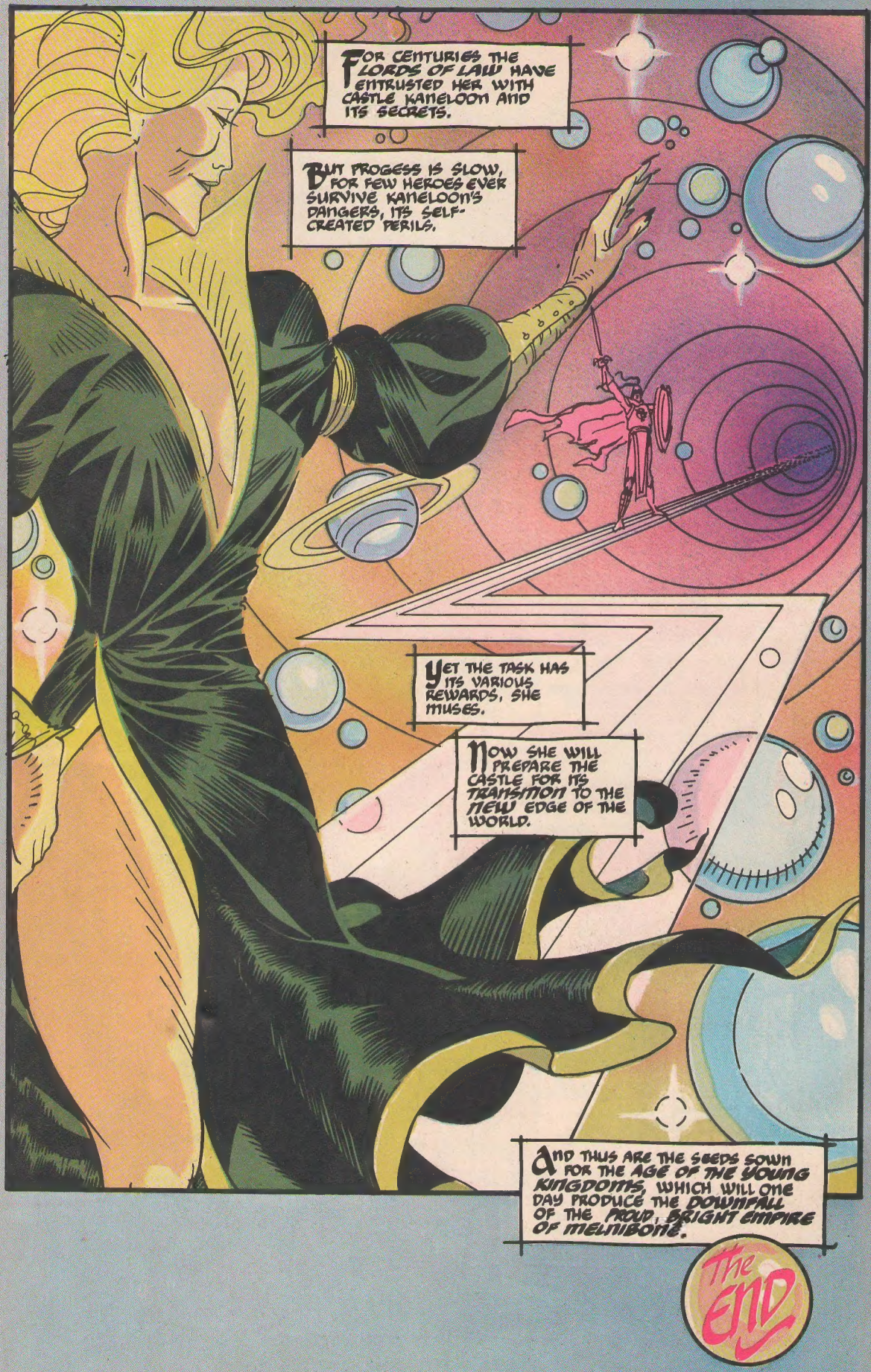

EVEN THEY MUST OBEY THE LAWS OF COSMIC BALANCE, WHICH ORDAINS THAT, IF A MAN CAN STAND AGAINST CHAOS--
-THEN IT SHALL BE HIS TO ORDER AND MAKE LAWFUL.
THUS DOES THE EARTH GROW-- SLOWLY.
HOW DO I ENTER THE MIST?
SEE THERE...?
A CAUSEWAY LEADS DOWN FROM THIS TOWER TO THE CLIFF.
DO YOU SEE IT, MILORD?
NO. I...
DO YOU... SEE IT, MILORD?
AH--YES! I HAD NOT-- BUT NOW I DO. YES, A CAUSEWAY.
GOOD.
THEN I WILL REMOVE THE BARRIER.


FOR KLANT AND ELOARDE AND ONLY THOSE DO I NOW EMBARK UPON THIS ADVENTURE!


AYE, MILORD.
ONLY FOR THOSE.
AUBEC OF MALADOR DOES NOT LOOK BACK AS HE STRIDES DOWN THE CAUSEWAY AND INTO THE MULTI-COLORED MIST.

HOW EASY IT IS, SHE KNOWS, TO BEGUILE THE STRONGEST MAN BY PRETENDING TO BE HIS THRALL.
EARL AUBEC MAY ADD LANDS TO HIS EMPIRE... BUT HE MAY FIND THEIR POPULATIONS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT QUEEN ELOARDE AS THEIR EMPRESS.
INDEED, IF HE DOES HIS WORK WELL, HE MAY WELL BE CREATING MORE OF A THREAT TO HIS HOMELAND THAN EVER KANELOON HAS BEEN.


STILL, MYSHELLA ADMIRES HIM... IS EVEN ATTRACTED TO HIM...
...PERHAPS EVEN A LITTLE MORE THAN SHE WAS TO THAT EARLIER HERO WHO CLAIMED AUBEC'S OWN LAND FROM CHAOS, BARELY TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.


For centuries the Lords of Law have entrusted her with Castle Kaneloon and its secrets.
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Yet the task has its various rewards, she muses.
Now she will prepare the castle for its transition to the new edge of the world.
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The End

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